

and taken one egg. He skinned her, but found no more eggs. I shortly received both the skin and egg and sent the former to the Ornithologist of the U. S. Department of Agriculture for positive identification. It is the form heretofore known as *Buteo fuliginosus*, now believed to be merely a dark color phase of *B. brachyurus* (see W. E. D. Scott, Auk, VI, July, 1889, 243-244).

The egg is dull white, showing blue when held against strong light. It is spotted on the larger end with reddish brown, in small spots and blotches, over about one fourth of the surface. A few finer spots extend to the middle of the smaller end where, however, they can hardly be seen unless closely examined. The egg measures 55×41 mm.

Until recently this tropical species was regarded as a rare if not accidental visitor in Florida. The first positive record of its breeding in the United States appeared in the last number of 'The Auk,' where Mr. W. E. D. Scott states that he found a pair building at Tarpon Springs. The present record is of special interest inasmuch as it not only increases the probability that the species breeds regularly along the Gulf Coast of Florida, but carries its range northward to St. Marks, which is in western Florida, north of the Gulf. It would not be surprising if future field work showed the breeding range of this species to extend westward throughout the Gulf States wherever suitable localities exist.

A NEW WREN FROM THE LOWER RIO GRANDE, TEXAS, WITH NOTES ON BERLANDIER'S WREN OF NORTHEASTERN MEXICO.

BY GEORGE B. SENNETT.

FEW BIRDS have been more puzzling than the specimens of *Thryothorus* which I collected on the Rio Grande in 1877, and gave to the National Museum after sending them to Dr. Coues for identification. Many examples, all of the same general character, have since been obtained from the same locality. Certainly these birds cannot be placed with *T. ludovicianus*,—Carolina Wren,—

nor do they agree with *T. l. berlandieri* (see Baird, Birds of North Am., 1858, p. 362, pl. lxxxiii, fig. 1). The type and two other specimens collected by Lieut. Couch in 1853 are in the collection of the National Museum. (For previous records of these Rio Grande Wrens, see Bulletin U. S. Geological and Geographical Survey, Vol. IV, No. 1, p. 8, and note by Dr. Coues; also *ibid.*, Vol. I, No. 3, p. 383; also Ridgway's 'Manual of North American Birds,' foot-note on p. 550.)

After the capture of three specimens of *T. l. berlandieri* in 1853, so long an interval elapsed before any more specimens were taken that Mr. Ridgway considered the form not well enough established to be given a place in his 'Manual.' Last year I obtained from my collectors three fine specimens of *berlandieri* from Victoria, Tamaulipas, Mexico, and this year I have received fifteen adults and one young from Nuevo Leon, Mexico, from the exact localities visited by Lieut. Couch in 1853. *Thryothorus l. berlandieri* can assuredly now be considered what Mr. Ridgway predicted,—a good tenable race; in fact it seems to me to be worthy the full specific rank given it by Prof. Baird. It is this accumulation of *berlandieri* specimens from northeastern Mexico that makes it possible to recognize the real status of the Rio Grande birds, for which I propose the name

***Thryothorus ludovicianus lomitensis*. LOMITA WREN.**

SP. CHAR.—*Adult breeding plumage*: Upper parts grayish brown, grayer on head, reddish on rump; white spots on rump numerous and not wholly concealed. Auriculars brown; sides of neck behind auriculars conspicuously streaked (sometimes barred) with white and black. Wings and tail lighter than back; edges of wing and tail barred conspicuously with white and black; tail bars broken up more or less, showing great irregularity. Under parts: throat and breast white, the latter faintly washed with buff; belly buff; flanks barred more or less indistinctly with brown; under tail-coverts barred black and white.

Adult winter plumage: Upper parts chocolate brown, the under parts more strongly washed with buff and occasionally becoming quite tawny. On account of the seasonal variation of these Wrens I have designated three examples as types: a male and a female in the faded plumage of the breeding season, and a male in the darker plumage of winter.

Types: ♂, No. 2598 of my collection, taken by myself at Lomita Ranch, Hidalgo Co., Texas, April 24, 1878. ♀, No. 2592 of my collection, taken by myself at Lomita Ranch, Hidalgo Co., Texas, May 15, 1878. ♂, No. 2599 of my collection, taken by M. A. Frazar, at Lomita Ranch, Hidalgo Co., Texas, Feb. 23, 1880.

HABITAT. Lomita Ranch and Hidalgo, Texas, on the Rio Grande.

Compared with *T. ludovicianus* this race is much lighter in its general appearance; the color of the back is also different, *ludovicianus* being reddish brown or bright cinnamon, while *lomitensis* is of the chocolate order of browns, fading into grayish brown during the breeding season. There is also more white on *lomitensis* than on *ludovicianus*; the barring of the tail is also different. In *ludovicianus* the bars of black are wonderfully regular, extending across both webs in a continuous line, while in *lomitensis* the bars of black are joined by a shading of white or creamy and are broken and irregular, thus giving the general mottled appearance and lighter color. The flanks, too, in all old birds of *lomitensis* show a decided tendency to barring, while in *ludovicianus* this is wanting.

As compared with *T. l. berlandieri*, *lomitensis* is lighter all over; *berlandieri* is dark tawny below and very dark chocolate brown above, while *lomitensis* is buff below and a lighter brown above. Then, too, the flanks of adult *berlandieri* are distinctly barred, while the bars of *lomitensis* are not so clearly defined.

As compared with the southern Florida form, *miamensis*, the latter is larger, darker, with a stouter bill, and has much less white on the upper parts; the flanks, however, are barred pretty much the same. It will be seen that *lomitensis* is about intermediate between *T. ludovicianus* on the north, and the extralimital *T. l. berlandieri* of Mexico on the south. The large series of the forms on and adjacent to the Rio Grande now in my collection renders this separation not only possible but, I think, wholly tenable.

The average sizes of the four forms are as follows:

		Wing.	Tail.	Exp.cul.	Trs.
<i>T. ludovicianus</i>	per Ridgway's 'Manual'	2.35	2.09	.64	.81 inch.
<i>T. l. miamensis</i>	" " "	2.61	2.43	.78	.88 "
<i>T. l. lomitensis</i>	26 adults	2.24	2.05	.625	.83 "
<i>T. l. berlandieri</i>	20 "	2.26	2.11	.65	.81 "

This new race seems to be resident in that part of the Rio Grande Valley lying adjacent to the river where the forest is heaviest, for none of the forms of this genus has been taken either above or below this timber tract. Hidalgo, where I

first obtained the birds, and Lomita Ranch, where I secured the greatest number, are situated only eight miles apart on the Texas side of the river. In this locality the heavy timber is near the river, and north of it the chaparral extends for a distance of about fifteen miles; next, still northward, lies a desert of sand reaching more than fifty miles until it meets the strong vegetable growth of the valley of the Nueces River. The Wrens of this group found in the valley of the Nueces are typical *T. ludovicianus*, as also are those found along the Gulf coast from Corpus Christi to Galveston. *Berlandieri* seems to be resident in the timber tracts of higher altitudes, and I should hardly expect to find it nearer the United States than Monterey. *Lomitensis* will probably reach into Mexico only so far as extends the heavy timber of the lower Rio Grande. I have named the bird from the place where I found it to be most abundant.

My thanks are due Mr. Allen of the American Museum and Mr. Ridgway of the National Museum for the loan of specimens.

SECOND SUPPLEMENT TO THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION CHECK-LIST OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS.

THE MATTER of publishing an annual supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Check-List of North American Birds was referred by the Union to the Council at the meeting of the Union held in Washington in 1888. At a meeting of the Council held in New York City, Nov. 11, 1889, the Council by unanimous vote requested the Committee on Publications to prepare a report on the species, subspecies, and changes of nomenclature proposed during the year (Nov. 1888 to Nov. 1889), to be published as the Second Supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Check-List, in 'The Auk,' for January, 1890.

In accordance with this authority the Committee on Publications held a meeting for this purpose, at the American Museum